

# **Rhode Island Emergency Response Commission**

**April 4, 2011**

**10:00 A.M.**

**Cranston, RI**

## **Call To Order**

**The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. by Chief J. David Smith**

## **Attendees:**

**Jim Gaffey, USEPA**

**Michael Dillon, LEPC-2**

**E. S. Coutoulakis, LEPC-4**

**Raymond Laprad, RIEMA**

**Jim Gumbley, RIEMA**

**Mike Brazel, FEMA**

**Jeff Stevens, DOH/CEPR**

**Steven Preston, LEPC-1**

**Bryan Greenwood, RIEMA**

**Ellary Gamache, RIEMA**

**James Larisa, Dept of Labor and Training**

**David D. Maio, LEPC-3**

**James Ball, RIDEM**

**Chief Smith asked that future SERC meetings be held at the office of Emergency Management. There were no objections.**

## **Old Business**

**Re: EPCRA, Chief Smith held a half-hour meeting with Charles Fogarty, Director of the Department of Labor and Training, and shared a copy of a 2009 document explaining EPCA and its requirements. Mr. Fogarty is not sure what his budget, personnel and their abilities will be moving forward, but he understands the seriousness of the issues and has pledged to work together with us to make sure we have the appropriate level of documentation and response. Mr. Fogarty has been able to commit the services of 10 staff people, including chemists, to assist Mr. Larisa's office.**

## **Planning Committee Report:**

**Requests for funding have been received. \$4,900 for a website subgrantee to Woonsocket Fire Department. Proposal will be forwarded. LEPCs 1, 3 and 4 to bifurcate the grant for planning to each LEPC to be used for various things approved by the grant.**

**The planning committee was given a demonstration of a system called Tier 2 Manager. The system was described as being expensive, with a \$41,000 start-up cost, and \$14,000 per year maintenance fee.**

**Cranston Fire, Providence Fire, DEM, CST and the Coast Guard participated in an EPA tabletop exercise last week. Well conducted and received, but disappointing in that there was no one from Providence EMA or RIEMA, because that public education and public**

notification will be a huge problem for the incident commander should there be an incident at the Port. Chief Coutoulakis pointed out that it has been shown in the past that if you can remove the life hazard from the disaster, the incident becomes a recovery incident.

Next meeting of the Planning Committee is April 30th.

Correction to cost of the website: \$54,082.

Preston: not in favor of Tier 2 Manager due to the cost and sustainability of annual fee. The website the committees have voted to build will, in phase two, do everything Tier 2 Manager will do. It will cost \$5,000 to build the website, and \$120 as a sustainment fee. The software is free of charge for Tier 2 submit. Provisions will be made so SERC can log in and if the SERC chooses, can put a log-in for DOT. Software may not be purchased through HMEP grants.

Only problem left on the table from the last meeting was how to identify the non-reporting entities. However, since phone calls are being made to remind businesses of their requirement to report, there has been a good response. More work is needed to enforce compliance, however. General discussion on issue.

EMA has asked Jack Landers, state public information technology director, to allow Ray Laprad to be at the table of a new committee falling under the oversight of Mr. Kirsch, Deputy Administrator for

Department of Administration, under Richard Licht, that is looking at technologies around the state to try to raise efficiency.

### **Training Committee**

Preston: Have not met in the last month, due to having expended all our funds. One of the cancelled classes was the technician class. We are meeting next week at the fire academy. We have another department looking to run a technician class; we try to run at least one per year. We will be able to reallocate those funds. There will be smaller classes given, including a clandestine drug lab workshop in Hope Valley.

### **Tri-State**

Meeting was held with Mass DEP, Mass Fire Service and their state grants person, Kurt Schwartz. They think that the design team has been moving too fast. Full scale exercise in September is not what we should be looking at right now. We should be looking at functional exercise. We have a tabletop coming up May 12th, which everyone will be participating in. The fire service is close to having an SOP or procedure for bringing in resources, call outs, etc. The fire academy is close (month to two months) of having a training curriculum for ethanol for all fire fighters. Through DEP, they are putting together a paper on the after effects, the environmental impact to the public and what you should do, i.e., let it burn, should you try to put it out, etc. The director has told them to have the report done within a month. Mark Poirier, the Emergency Management

Director from Mendon, and he was satisfied with the functional exercise. We haven't spoken to the full design team (CT, RI) yet, but will do on the 19th, at the meeting to resolve this. Rhode Island and Connecticut could go on their own instead of the full scale exercise.

Preston: The expenses of a full scale exercise could be as high as a couple hundred thousand dollars. I am not infavor of moving this to 2012. We have already made arrangements with the state exercise coordinator in Rhode Island to fund this, put teams on stand-by for September, spent nearly a year and a half building this. The drill could be moved to a site in Woonsocket, or Putnam. It doesn't have to be in Massachusetts.

Final comments: Although we would have the functional in September, David Ladd has funding available to do a full scale within the Spring of 2012, besides ours, which he calls I-State. He could put on the full scale himself if he wanted to.

LEPC-1: Next meeting, April 20th, 1:30, North Providence Public Library. DHS inspectors coming in to introduce themselves to the committee. As Chief Dillon, we have put in our budget request and I am urging that get done ASAP along with the subgrant to build the website, so we can get this done in a timely fashion. It's a very labor-intensive project I submitted to fine tune some of the data we are currently receiving within LEPC-1, with the facilities I have in the district that have not done planning in years. There's a lot of work to

be done.

**LEPC-2: last meeting March 9th. Receiving Tier 2's electronically. Still receive some with hard copy. Each receives email to alert them that hard copies are no longer accepted. Their receipt is a return email. On June 9th doing full scale exercise at the UNIVAR facility in Providence. Using the Providence and Cranston fire department hazmat teams. Tabletop exercise for that was last week. Emergency Response plan has been updated and will be voted on for acceptance at the next meeting, normally in December. But because of the changes in the Administration, there will be a complete re-write and update every three years. Inquiries received from Department of Homeland Security for their inspectors to come to our early BC meeting. UNIVAR gets visits from TSA, DHS, the Coast Guard and me. A full scale exercise in June. What we're going to have to exercise is a disgruntled employee going in there and bypassing the safety systems and doing damage to the facility. The exercise we did last week was a problem with the rail cars. The rail cars went out of control and drove into each other, causing a release of chlorine and ammonia, and the size and scale of that type of incident is staggering.**

**Next meeting June 13th at Providence Public Safety auditorium.**